

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON
ILO

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZA-
TION ADOPTED BY THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 20,
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1976 IS BEING TRANSMITTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF ADDRESSEE

POSTS. THE STATEMENT IS A RE-AFFIRMATION OF THE AFL-CIO POSITION ADOPTED FOLLOWING THE 60TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN JUNE 1975:

QUOTE. THE DIGNITY AND WELL-BEING OF WORKERS EVERYWHERE ARE ENHANCED OR DIMINISHED BY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE INSTITUTIONS WHO WORK FOR THEM AND THE FORCES WHICH CONNIVE TO REPRESS THEM. THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION HAS WITHIN IT BOTH THE PROGRESSIVE AND REGRESSIVE ELEMENTS IN OPEN CONFRONTATION.

THE ISSUE IS CLEAR AND PRECISE. EITHER THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION MUST RETURN TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL TRIPARTITE PURPOSES AND PROCEDURES WHICH HAVE MADE IT THE HOPE OF OPPRESSED WORKING MEN AND WOMEN THE WORLD OVER, OR IT WILL CONTINUE TO SLIDE INTO THE CONTROL OF THE DICTATORSHIPS AND MONOLITHIC GOVERNMENTAL POWERS WHOSE OPPRESSION OF WORKERS IS CURRENT AS WELL AS HISTORIC.

FOR THESE REASONS, THE AFL-CIO, TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND EMPLOYERS ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES, HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO A TWO-YEAR UNDERTAKING, THE THRUST OF WHICH IS TO RESTORE THE ILO TO ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSES AND ORGANIZATIONAL INTEGRITY.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL EXPRESSES ITS STRONG DETERMINATION TO COOPERATE WITH EVERY DEMOCRATIC SECTOR WITHIN THE ILO TO BRING ABOUT THESE NECESSARY CHANGES. NO HONORABLE MEANS WILL BE LEFT UNTRIED TO REVERSE THE COURSE CHARTED BY THOSE NATIONS SEEKING THE ENSLAVEMENT OF WORKERS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. SHOULD THAT EFFORT FAIL TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE WORKING ALLIANCE OF FREE WORKERS, EMPLOYERS AND GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE ILO, CONTINUED U.S. MEMBERSHIP IN THAT BODY WILL CLEARLY NO LONGER SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE AND SHOULD BE TERMINATED. UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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